

Against the Grain

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Profiles Encouraged

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ATG PROFILES ENCOURAGED



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BORN AND LIVED: Born in Greensboro, NC; lived in Athens and Moultrie, Georgia; El Paso, Texas; Copiapó, Chile; Tokyo, Japan; Tucson, Arizona; Boone, NC; and Williamsburg, VA.

EARLY LIFE: I earned an MFA in Creative Writing with a focus on poetry from the University of Texas El Paso and set about modeling my career after Pablo Neruda's. I wanted to teach college English, write, live abroad, and publish and translate. After five years of trying to love teaching, I woke up one morning, confident that I should go to library school instead and be a librarian.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I've had more odd jobs and short careers than most people. I've had my own business painting cars, worked in accounting & materials requisition, taught art, worked at a music store, gigged as a contra & square dance piano player, taught ballroom dance for five years, catered events, been an admin secretary, worked in diversity offices, cut hair, been photographer for a local paper, done stage makeup for theatre, moderated community conversations about farming and agriculture, kept bees, supervised a team of facilities workers, graded standardized tests, worked in a personal injury law firm, been the writer-in-residence in a middle school, worked at Penney's in dresses, telemarketed, and took lots of teaching & library gigs.

FAMILY: I have five beautiful grandkids because of my husband who had two almost-grown children when we started dating 20 years ago. I spend a lot of time with my two 6-year old twin nieces who live an hour away, so there are lots of little kids in my life.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *Heat* by Bill Buford; Neruda's and Julia Child's and Carl Jung's and Malcolm X's memoirs; Richard Feynman's short works like *Surely You're Joking!*; *A Book of Luminous Things* edited by Czesław Miłosz; anything by Anne Fadiman or David Sedaris; *Lolita*; Daniel Pinkwater, especially *The Sharkout Boys* and *the Avocado of Death*; and books by sociologist Oscar Lewis, explorer Helen Thayer, and pop culture critic Chuck Klosterman.

PET PEEVES: Bad data. I'd rather have no data than faulty or sloppy data. And I like beautiful data too. I like a beautiful spreadsheet.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Managing the ten year reaccreditation of Appalachian State University with the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools (SACS). I edited and wrote generous portions of our 500 page Compliance Certification with 4,000 pieces of documentation, hosted a beautiful onsite visit, and left with no recommendations after all was said and done. And after three years of convincing faculty and administrators to start documenting their assessment of institutional effectiveness across campus, no one even hated me (that much).

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Absolutely thriving. Demonstrating more diversity in our personnel and in our goals as libraries, with a playfulness and sense of experimentation across the board in every type of institution.



Tom Gilson

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BORN AND LIVED: Brooklyn, NY; Queens, NY; Buffalo, NY; Rochester, NY; Greenville, SC; Seneca, SC; and Charleston SC.

EARLY LIFE: Born in Brooklyn and moved with my family to Queens until high school when I moved to upstate NY.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I started my career as a reference librarian at the Greenville County Library, SC and then served as the Director of the Oconee County Library, SC before moving to Charleston to get a second master's degree. I then served as a reference librarian, at the Charleston County Library and finally as the Head of Reference Services at the College of Charleston. I've been involved in professional associations throughout my career most notably serving as the President of the South Carolina Library Association and as the South Carolina representative on ALA Council. Currently, I help Katina with *Against the Grain* and our website, the ATG NewsChannel, as well as work with the Charleston Conference team to offer all attendees the best possible conference experience.

FAMILY: I am married to my wife Carol and have a daughter Christine who lives in upstate NY. Murphy our dog and Benny Boy the cat round out the family.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I like to hike in the various nature preserves and parks here in lowcountry South Carolina as well as in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee. I'm also a fan of British TV especially mysteries and subscribe to Britbox and Acorn streaming services. Oh! I also follow the Mets and most other NY sports teams.

FAVORITE BOOKS: I'm a fan of Scandinavian noir and authors like Henning Mankell, Stieg Larsson, Karin Fossum, Jussi Adler-Olsen, and Jo Nesbø. I also like to read the popular histories and biographies of authors like David McCullough, Erik Larson, Ron Chernow, and Stephen Ambrose.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see libraries broadening their definition of what collections are to include things like images, data, and software. I also think that far more focus will be placed on customizing services for users as well as on enabling the discoverability of scholarly resources. Demand and expectations will continue to increase for all resources to be open access and for librarians to play a role working with faculty to create open resources on their campuses. More and more effort will be made to find ways to utilize artificial intelligence and incorporate it into services and products.



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BORN AND LIVED: I was born in Cleveland, OH and grew up in Hiram, OH, where my father was a professor at Hiram College and my mother was

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the registrar. I've since lived in a variety of places, including Columbus, Minneapolis, Chicago, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah (UAE), and Cairo, Egypt.

EARLY LIFE: I grew up in Hiram, OH, a small college town about an hour from Cleveland. Hiram College was founded in 1850 by people from the East Coast who wanted to create a college as far away from the temptations of the city as possible...I would say that they succeeded admirably in this. It was a peaceful place to grow up.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I've been doing collection development for about fifteen years. I began doing collections work at The American University in Sharjah and continued at The American University in Cairo and Central Michigan University. I met Katina at various Fiesole Collection Development Retreats in Europe, back when a flight from Dubai or Cairo to Europe was only five hours or so, and this connected me to the Charleston Conference before I'd ever been to Charleston.

While I was in Sharjah and Cairo I did the research and writing for *Wallis Budge: Magic and Mummies in London and Cairo* (Glasgow, 2011), a biography of the wild and interesting Egyptologist Sir E. A. Wallis Budge. My trips to the British Museum and British Library to work in the archives were wonderful experiences.

I'm currently the editor in chief of the *Charleston Briefings* and the editor of *Charleston Voices*.

FAMILY: I have two wonderful children, a wonderful brother, and a wonderful stepfather.

IN MY SPARE TIME: I teach Inner Yoga meditation.

FAVORITE BOOKS: A few of them are: *Shantaram*, by Gregory David Roberts; *Sacred Games*, by Vikram Chandra; *Treason in the Blood*, by Anthony Cave Brown; and *Like This: More Poems of Rumi*, by Coleman Barks.

PET PEEVES: People who tell me how busy they are.

PHILOSOPHY: Be here now.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Creating the *Charleston Briefings* with Katina Strauch, Tom Gilson, Leah Hinds, Maureen Adanson, Charles Watkinson, and Jason Coleman. What a pleasure it was to work with all of these people!

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I expect to see private content and service providers offer integrated online packages for library services, initially serving small libraries such as community college systems and high schools. I also expect that targeted and practical developments in artificial intelligence will result in very effective AI-powered search tools that will transform the research and discovery process, particularly in the STEM areas (see the Chan-Zuckerberg *Initiative's Meta: AI for Science*).



Gary Marchionini

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BORN AND LIVED: 1949-

EARLY LIFE: Born in Altoona, PA, moved to East Detroit and attended East Detroit Public Schools, BA in mathematics and English from Western Michigan University, MEd and PhD from Wayne State University.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Math teacher, Oakwood Junior High and East Detroit High School; (1971-78); math specialist Wayne State University (1978-1983); assistant, associate, full professor University of Maryland (1983-98); Boshamer Professor University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill (1998-present), Dean School of Information and Library Science UNC (2010-present).

FAMILY: Wife, Suzanne, children Brian and Deanna, five grandchildren.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Cycling, gardening, walks.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Recent non-fiction: *Weapons of Math Destruction*; *Twitter and Tear Gas*; *The Great Divide*; *Hamilton* (biography); *Wisdom: from Philosophy to Neuroscience*. Fiction: anything I can find time to read.

PET PEEVES: People who are too busy (aka self-absorbed) for other people.

PHILOSOPHY: Almost everyone alive is morally good and kind. Do not let ourselves forget this and be controlled by the very few who are not moral or kind, and by our political and economic enterprises that feed on the attention these few demand.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: ASIST Award of Merit.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Write another book that people take the time to read.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I see continued overloading of people and systems with data screaming to become information. This will continue to challenge information professionals to hold public trust and consider the public good while adapting to new information techniques and tools (e.g., AI, IOT, surveill and store all activity). We will become more valuable and more influential as long as we stay true to our focus on human needs and public good.



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BORN AND LIVED: Greenville, SC; Charleston, SC; Kittery, MA; Proctorville, OH; Waukegan, IL; Decatur, IL; Goose Creek, SC.

EARLY LIFE: Military brat. Started in new school multiple times.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: Information and Instruction Librarian, Videographer, Photographer, Writer.

FAMILY: Two Children.

IN MY SPARE TIME: Read, write, play and design analog games.

FAVORITE BOOKS: *The War of Art: Winning the Inner Creative Battle* by Steven Pressfield.

PET PEEVES: Advertisements in the middle of a YouTube video that cannot be skipped.

PHILOSOPHY: There is rarely an issue that cannot be solved by a dedicated group of kindred spirits or at least made into a decent interactive game.

MOST MEMORABLE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Hopefully, it is just around the corner.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: Become the educational game expert in the Southeast (or some other direction).

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: Ahh, the future... The library profession has already morphed from those who are the keepers of the knowledge to those who are the navigators through the knowledge. Because of the increasing ubiquity of info/media access, patrons will need libraries themselves even less as a physical place to access information and store books (though books will still be there for the substantial number who will still find gratification and succor in such material things). Instead, libraries themselves will become maker spaces where folk come to access tools, accessories and the spaces to utilize them. Librarians themselves will become even greater experts in the use of these tools and even more so as translators and instructors of information literacy. We still will not have flying cars though.

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COMPANY PROFILES ENCOURAGED



EBSCO Information Services

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ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS, ETC.: ALA, PLA, SLA, MLA, AASL, and NASIG.

KEY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: Online research content for libraries.

CORE MARKETS/CLIENTELE: EBSCO serves the content needs of all researchers (Academic, Medical, K-12, Public Library, Corporate, Government, etc.).

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES: 3,800

HISTORY AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR COMPANY/PUBLISHING PROGRAM: EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) is the trusted industry leader with 70+ years of experience providing cutting-edge technology and resources for libraries worldwide.

EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) provides each institution with a comprehensive, single search box for its entire collection, offering unparalleled relevance ranking quality and extensive customization. EBSCO is also the preeminent provider of online research content for libraries, including hundreds of research databases, historical archives, point-of-care medical reference, and corporate learning tools serving millions of end users at tens of thousands of institutions. EBSCO is the leading provider of electronic journals & books for libraries, with subscription management for more than 360,000 serials, including more than 57,000 e-journals, as well as online access to more than 1,000,000 eBooks. EBSCO is an international company with employees around the globe and customers in nearly every country in the world. The company is the leading provider of research databases to developing nations, and continues with its efforts to bridge the digital divide. EBSCO Information Services is a division of EBSCO Industries Inc., a family owned company since 1944.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS? EBSCO has made business decisions with the environment in mind, including two large solar electric arrays, changing its corporate fleet of cars to hybrids and creating a Green Team of employees which has led to larger recycling programs, lunchtime seminars and a full public transportation reimbursement program for employees.

LIBRARY PROFILES ENCOURAGED



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BACKGROUND/HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL: Founded 1931 – see <https://silS.unc.edu/about/history>.

NUMBER OF FACULTY: 30

CURRICULUM TRACKS; KEY COURSES: Bachelor of Science in Information Science; Master of Science in Information Science; Master of Science in Library Science; Professional Science Master's Degree in Digital Management and Curation; School Media Coordinator Program; PhD Degree.

UNIQUE PROGRAMS: Dual Master's Degrees with Art History, Business Administration, Government, Health Policy, Law, Nursing, and Public History; Dual BS-MS degree with Ecology and Environmental Studies; Graduate Certificate Programs in Bioinformatics, Clinical Information Science, Digital Curation, Digital Humanities, Interdisciplinary Health Communication, International Development, Nonprofit Leadership, Public Health Informatics, Diversity Advocate; Carolina Health Informatics Program (CHIP).

PRIMARY AREAS OF RESEARCH: Data management and curation; libraries of the 21st century; human-information interaction; health informatics.

AVAILABLE INTERNSHIPS/RESIDENCIES: Carolina Library Associates (CALA); Carolina Technology Associations (CATA); EPA Library Interns.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS: See dual programs above; also CHIP partners SILS with Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and computer science department.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR INFORMATION/LIBRARY SCHOOL WILL BE LIKE IN FIVE YEARS? More diverse in content and people; more technical prereqs; more international; 20-50% larger (students, faculty, and staff).

WHAT EXCITES OR CONCERNS YOU ABOUT THE NEXT FIVE YEARS? Many opportunities for informed excellence and leadership as we cope with information overload; data analytics misapplication; and digital literacy requirements.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK OUR READERS SHOULD KNOW? Come visit us!